

**Department for
Environment Food and
Rural Affairs**

**Three-year report on the East Marine
Plans
(For the period 2 April 2014 - 1 April 2017)**

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

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Contents

1.	Report summary	4
2.	Overview of the East Marine Plans	7
2.1.	When the plan was adopted	7
2.2.	Outline description of the East marine plan areas	7
2.3.	Vision, objectives and policies	7
2.4.	Additional plan content and benefits	7
2.5.	Implementation	8
3.	How the East Marine Plans are being monitored	8
3.1.	The East Marine Plans Implementation and Monitoring Plan	8
3.2.	Context, process and outcome monitoring	9
3.3.	Quality Assurance of evidence used.....	9
3.4.	Review of the approach	9
4.	Context.....	9
4.1.	How context monitoring was conducted	9
4.2.	Context monitoring findings	10
5.	Process	12
5.1.	How process monitoring was conducted	12
5.2.	Process monitoring findings.....	12
6.	Outcomes.....	14
6.1.	How outcomes monitoring was conducted	14
6.2.	Outcome monitoring findings	14
	Annex A: Summary of key indicator findings by objective	16

1. Report summary

This report reviews progress the East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans (the East Marine Plans) have made against its objectives as well as the UK Marine Policy Statement's (MPS) high level marine objectives (HLMOs) over a three year period from adoption (2 April 2014 to 1 April 2017). This is in line with requirements of Section 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act), and includes the need to keep matters under review (Section 54).

This report is structured to address context, process and outcome monitoring in that order, reflecting how the marine planning system works and enabling interpretation of effects; **context** informs development of marine plans and defines what part they play in marine management **processes** that deliver **outcomes**. Outcomes are real world changes that can be part of updated context in future marine planning cycles.

Overall, all marine plan objectives remain relevant and integral to realising the vision of the East marine plans. Expected outcomes for five objectives were consistent with anticipated progress. Due to the short time period since the East Marine Plans were adopted, appropriate or complete data indicating progress towards achieving six of the objective outcomes was not available. It is expected that this data will be available to inform future reports.

The monitoring approach was designed to make best use of existing monitoring programmes, reducing the need for marine plan-specific activity. In some cases programmes that were in place when the East plans were adopted have subsequently changed. Review of the monitoring approach, including identification of alternative data sources where relevant, will be undertaken to enhance how objectives are assessed to inform the next three-year report.

Context

- In line with Section 54 of the Act, a review into changes in the context in which the plans were developed since plan adoption has been undertaken. Context includes economic, social and environmental characteristics, legislation, and governance factors.
- The review found that although there have been a number of changes they have not affected the relevance of the East Marine Plans. The plans continue to support progress towards the HLMOs and do not, at present, require review or amendment in response to changes in the context.

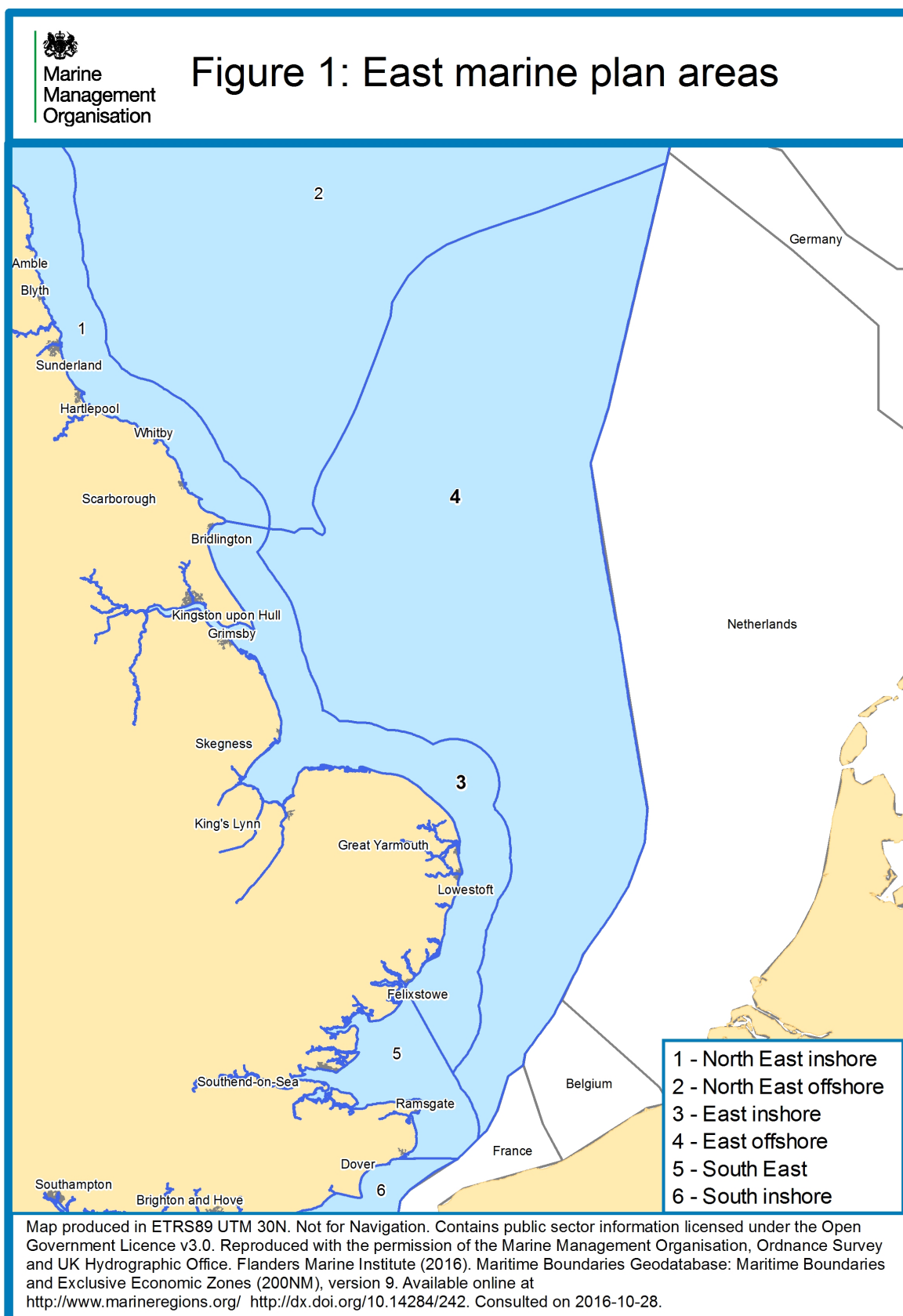
Processes

- Monitoring how the East Marine Plans are used involves looking at the processes of a range of decision makers. Amongst those using the East Marine Plans, it was recognised that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) make the largest number of relevant decisions.
- There is evidence that the East Marine Plans are being used and integrated into a range of marine management processes, such as those of Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs). There is also increasing integration between land and marine planning systems. Overall this shows that progress is being made towards delivery of the East Marine Plans' and the Marine Policy Statement's vision, objectives and HLMOs.

Outcomes

- Expected outcomes for five objectives of the East Marine Plans were consistent with expected progress (objectives 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 – see [East Marine Plans Implementation and Monitoring Plan](#) for details of indicators).
- Learning from the East Marine Plans process and subsequent use has informed and improved the development of remaining plans in England.

Figure 1: Map of the East plan areas



2. Overview of the East Marine Plans

2.1. When the plan was adopted

The [East Marine Plans](#) were prepared by the MMO on behalf of government and adopted by the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs on 2 April 2014. The plans were the first marine plans to be adopted in England.

2.2. Outline description of the East marine plan areas

The east marine plan areas (inshore and offshore) encompass the coast from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe. The plans' remit extends from mean high-water spring tidal limit to the maritime boundaries with the Netherlands, Belgium and France, and covers an area of approximately 55,000 square kilometres. Delineation between the inshore and offshore marine plan areas exists at 12 nautical miles. A map of the area can be found in Figure 1 of this report.

2.3. Vision, objectives and policies

The East Marine Plans help deliver the United Kingdom's vision for "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas" and the supporting HMLOs in the Marine Policy Statement. To do so, the East Marine Plans have their own 20 year vision and objectives that describe how the plans' vision will be achieved. Details of vision and objectives, as well as a description of policies, can be found in the [East Marine Plans](#).

The plan objectives relate to all the themes covered by the HLMOs including:

- to achieve a sustainable marine economy
- ensure a strong, healthy and just society
- live within environmental limits

It is recognised that the relative contribution of the East Marine Plans to realising different HLMOs is likely to vary geographically depending on local factors including the degree to which other measures contribute.

The plans' objectives are delivered through 38 plan policies accompanied by supporting information and signposting to other relevant measures and plans such as those produced by local planning authorities.

2.4. Additional plan content and benefits

The value of marine planning extends beyond marine plan objectives and policies. Activities undertaken during the marine plan development process bring wider benefits. For example, sub-national policy analysis will lead to better integration of decision-making. Evidence collation and commissioning improves the marine evidence base to inform decisions. Engagement, including workshops, meetings and training, has increased awareness or improved implementation of existing measures as well as measures within the East Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement.

Not all issues that were raised in plan development resulted in a specific marine plan policy as some are already addressed by existing measures. It was considered helpful to

“signpost” many of these to raise awareness of them, facilitate their application and provide an improved overview of the governance in place for the east marine plan areas. The overall result is a contribution to realising the HLMOs beyond that which can be attributed to the policies and objectives of the East Marine Plans.

2.5. Implementation

Section 58 of the Act places a duty upon all public authorities in respect of both authorisations and enforcement decisions and any decision:

- which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but
- which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision

Marine plans are to be implemented in a proportionate, consistent, targeted, transparent and risk-based manner in line with the principles of better regulation. Public authorities making decisions that may affect the marine area include the MMO, local planning authorities, and IFCA's. To simplify fulfilling regulatory requirements associated with marine planning, implementation is intended to integrate with current decision-making processes as far as possible.

The MMO and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have supported and encouraged effective implementation across public authorities through developing understanding of marine planning in the context of the various decision-making processes to which it applies. This has been achieved via the publication and promotion of a number of tools and the development of internal implementation frameworks that can be adapted to suit external decision making practice. Measures include:

- sharing the MMO's implementation experience with other bodies, for example sharing a checklist used by marine licensing case officers to specifically support assessment of marine consent applications
- local implementation officers providing specific advice and guidance to various authorities
- the [Marine Information System](#) website, which includes plan policies and an interactive map available to applicants and local authorities to support application development and decision-making
- an online [marine planning evidence base](#)
- inclusion of marine planning advice for local planning authorities in the [Planning Advisory Service Soundness Checklist](#)
- publication of a [marine planning user guide for local planning authorities](#)

3. How the East Marine Plans are being monitored

3.1. The East Marine Plans Implementation and Monitoring Plan

The sections below provide an overview of the approach to monitoring. More detail can be found in the [East Marine Plans Implementation and Monitoring Plan](#) (the monitoring plan) published in June 2014 to support the application of the adopted East Marine Plans. Note,

whilst all relevant public authorities are responsible for implementation, the MMO are responsible for monitoring. The approach to monitoring was informed by:

- government's [Magenta Book](#)
- the [Marine Policy Statement](#)
- [A Description for Marine Planning in England](#)
- best practice from existing plans, expert input from a monitoring advisory group
- stakeholder feedback and engagement throughout the marine planning process

The [monitoring approach](#) was subject to public consultation alongside the East Marine Plans.

3.2. Context, process and outcome monitoring

To understand why the East Marine Plans are having the effect they are, the monitoring approach addresses three components; context, process, and outcomes.

Process monitoring assesses implementation of marine plans including that decisions are made against plan policies, and that such decisions are appropriate. Outcome monitoring assesses whether the intended effects (outcomes) of the plan occur. Context monitoring confirms that the context in which marine plans were adopted remains similar, or if context has changed, what implications this may have for interpreting process and outcome monitoring evidence and amending plans.

To minimise duplication of effort and make the best use of resources, monitoring drew primarily on other existing environmental, social and economic monitoring programmes, and data readily generated by the MMO. Where appropriate, baseline data was gathered to establish a threshold against which to measure progress.

3.3. Quality Assurance of evidence used

Evidence collected for plan monitoring was subjected to [quality assurance](#) to ensure it is robust and fit for purpose with appropriate processes in place both internally and with third party data providers.

3.4. Review of the approach

In order to confirm that the monitoring approach is fit for purpose, an [independent external review of the monitoring plan](#) was carried out. It confirmed that the approach taken enables the MMO to meet the requirements of the Act and is fit for purpose. The MMO's approach to monitoring has been recognised as being "[among the more advanced examples of integrating \[monitoring\] considerations](#)".

4. Context

4.1. How context monitoring was conducted

The East Marine Plans were developed in consideration of the aspirations of national and local planning policy and futures analysis work defined by the [Strategic Scoping Report for marine planning in England](#). The future projections along with current governance, economic, social and environment characteristics (further defined under Section 54 of the Act), represent the context in which the East Marine Plans were adopted.

Changes in context have the potential to impact the ability of the East Marine Plans to deliver on objectives or require plan amendment to account for emerging considerations

Context monitoring was carried out by assessing whether the east marine plan areas' context remained similar. This included reviewing change in local and national aspiration articulated through policy and legislation, and assessing the progression of local plans of the 26 local authorities and two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The MMO also assessed changes in relevant legislation at international, European and national scales and the futures analysis work of the [Strategic Scoping Report for marine planning in England](#) and the East Marine Plans, to ensure content remained appropriate.

4.2. Context monitoring findings

The context of the east marine plan areas has evolved, although more substantial context changes are expected to occur before the East Marine Plans' 2017-2020 report cycle. Notable changes in the governance, economic social and environment context are described below.

On 23 June, the EU referendum took place and the people of the UK voted to leave the EU. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU and how policies currently implemented by EU Directives may continue to apply within marine planning.

The full implications with respect to the East Marine Plans cannot be defined at this time. Consideration of the impact of any changes arising from the UK's decision to leave the EU are most appropriately considered as part of the next reporting cycle on the East Marine Plans, currently planned for 2020.

In July 2014, the European Parliament and the European Council adopted [Directive 2014/89/EU](#) to create a common framework for maritime spatial planning in the EU. The approach taken with the East Marine Plans is in alignment with the Directive and required no further action.

There is continual change in relevant policy and legislation. The East Marine Plans cited 52 pieces of national legislation. Three new pieces of relevant national legislation were introduced in 2014-2017. A further 18 pieces of legislation were amended. Of those, only seven had potential implications for the East Marine Plans but none made any policy redundant, caused conflict, or resulted in deficiencies in the delivery approach to the East Marine Plans' or the Marine Policy Statements' vision and objectives.

Defra's 25-year Environment Plan will add value to the context that may inform future changes to marine plans. This may include the application of natural capital approaches and changes to the way local communities are involved in marine management.

Approximately a third of local authority plans that border the east inshore marine plan area have been updated since 2014 and all of those now make reference to the East Marine Plans. However, there has not been any significant trend in terms of local authorities

making marine matters a greater proportion of the overall focus of their plans compared with previous versions. A further third of local authority plans that border the east inshore marine plan area were under review at the time of the MMO's monitoring work and so it is expected that cumulative changes to local authority plans in terms of reference to the East Marine Plans will increase towards 2020.

Social and economic context have not changed significantly over the last three years. Challenges and opportunities present in the region remain broadly similar to those identified at the start of the East Marine Plans' development process. Technological developments such as new ways of generating electricity, and process changes including to the land planning system, may influence the aspirations of the East Marine Plans. However, such changes have not been so significant following plan adoption as to affect the characteristics of development within the region.

Responding to requirements of the [Habitats Directive](#) and [Birds Directive](#), the adopted version of the East Marine Plans was informed by a habitats regulation assessment that assessed the possible impact of the plan in relation to designated habitats and species, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. Since adoption of the East Marine Plans, marine protected area coverage has increased.

In January 2017 a [Special Area of Conservation for harbour porpoise](#) covering almost 37,000km² of the North Sea was submitted by government to the European Commission for approval to designate and is now a candidate site. A significant proportion of this area lies within or adjacent to the east marine plan areas. It has not been possible to reassess the plan against this candidate Special Area of Conservation through a habitats regulation assessment given the limited time available between it becoming a candidate site and laying of this report before parliament. In addition to this candidate Special Area of Conservation, two Marine Conservation Zones were established in the east inshore marine plan area. These changes are relevant to policies under Objectives 6, 7 and 8 although they remain applicable.

Supporting static maps in the plans are caveated by date and such changes in context are dynamically reflected in the MMO's [Marine Information System](#) online planning support website. This reflects one of the wider benefits of marine plans whereby a 20 year vision, supported by objectives and policies, are set but supported by provision of the best available information on the context that is updated as required. The high standard to which the MMO has been able to deliver this approach is highlighted in the following [Marine Information System](#) case study.

CASE STUDY: MARINE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR CONTEXT UPDATING

The [Marine Information System](#) is a free online system bringing together marine plans and supporting information. It includes 170 data layers that supply up to date contextual information for anyone using marine plans. The system has been accessed by users across the world, achieving over 46,000 page views by 11,500 unique users since its launch with very positive feedback received.

In 2015 the [Marine Information System](#) was shortlisted in the Civil Service Innovation Challenge. The UK Chief Technical Officer of Esri, a leading global company in the field of geographic information tools, said "The Marine Management Organisation team has managed to present a vast amount of information in a clear, accessible manner that is fun and interesting to explore. This is a highly impressive achievement."

5. Process

5.1. How process monitoring was conducted

Process monitoring provides interim monitoring of progress towards longer term outcomes. It informs understanding of how marine plans are performing, separating out effects resulting from the way the plans are written from those arising because of the way the plans are applied. It responds to the Act's requirements to keep under review the effectiveness of policies and progress to securing objectives. Process monitoring in this first reporting cycle focused on:

- stakeholder understanding and use of the East Marine Plans
- integration with land planning
- implementation by the MMO

Monitoring draws upon pre-existing instruments and recording and survey based data gathered from a wider range of marine plan users.

5.2. Process monitoring findings

The marine planning process around the development of the East Marine Plans provided strong foundations on which the plans could succeed. Assessment of stakeholder engagement on the East Marine Plans after their adoption shows high levels of satisfaction (80% responded positively) such that stakeholders feel knowledgeable about marine planning and they are kept updated on progress of how they were being applied. A substantial majority feel their views are considered, that they are engaged effectively and that the plans help achieve sustainable development. This gives confidence that plan development provides a good basis for stakeholder involvement in effectively implementing the East Marine Plans.

Engagement around the plans' implementation started with the draft East Marine Plans in September 2013. When surveyed in September 2014, stakeholders consistently agreed that their "organisation's decisions [were] made in accordance with the East Marine Plans"

although respondents also noted that changes necessary to consider the plans efficiently, such as training and system changes were still ongoing at that time.

Integration with land planning has made notable progress. Marine planning implementation officers located in the east inshore plan area provide local areas with specific and relevant expertise, working closely with local authority officers as required. Resources like "[Marine Planning: A guide for local councils](#)" developed and published by the MMO have been well received. Since adoption of the East Marine Plans, nine of 26 local authority plans have been updated. Awareness raising and support by the MMO has resulted in 100% of these nine local authority plans identifying and acknowledging marine plan relevance as a consideration in decision-making. The MMO continues to work with all local authorities as they go through their planning cycles to ensure marine plans are integrated across the East plan areas. The following case study sets out specific examples of how a number of different decision makers are using marine plans.

CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS DECISION MAKERS

- Broads Authority Local Plan review demonstrated alignment with marine planning objectives and cross referenced marine planning documents and resource
- Eastern IFCA incorporated marine planning assessment within their byelaw development process using established Impact Assessment process to screen relevant plan policies and address issues transparently
- Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning Unit has provided specific [guidance](#) documents regarding the consideration to be given to adopted marine plans within applications containing an environmental impact assessment submitted to the unit

In addition to those bodies highlighted in the case study, the MMO is a significant user of marine plans. The following sets out how MMO teams have updated their decision-making processes to respond to this requirement:

- i. The Marine Licensing team is responsible for assessing and determining applications for marine licences, with marine licences required for a wide range of marine activities. The Marine Case Management System, an online system used by applicants to submit applications, has been updated to include questions related to use of marine plans. Responses are recorded as part of the Marine Licensing team assessment. Two thirds of marine licensing applicants referenced marine plans in the three year period 2014-2016.
- ii. The duties of the Marine Conservation Team include creating fisheries byelaws in the 6 to 12 nautical mile part of the marine plan areas, byelaws for other non-licensable activities, and quality assuring fisheries byelaws developed by IFCAs. The team have integrated consideration of marine plans into these functions through inclusion of relevant sections in process templates. This approach to using marine plans has been used to inform cooperation and development of good practice.

- iii. The European Grants team administers the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in England. The team has updated paper and e-system forms to ask if plans have been considered to inform applications. The approach has been shared with fisheries local action groups who have also integrated relevant questions on marine plans into their processes in relation to funding for fisheries focussed Community-Led Local Development in England.

6. Outcomes

6.1. How outcomes monitoring was conducted

The East Marine Plans' policies are being implemented by public authorities through existing regulatory and decision-making mechanisms. There are no new burdens in the form of additional mechanisms or requirements, for example in relation to monitoring. Given the scope and scale of intended effects of the East Marine Plans' policies and objectives, outcome monitoring indicators rely heavily on pre-existing social, economic and environmental datasets.

The robustness of marine plan monitoring is improved where data is available for periods before adoption (baseline) and an extended period after this. Given the scale and timeframe of marine plans, data required to measure progress towards objectives have extensive collection, analysis and reporting requirements. This means that for six objectives a lag has been a major factor in not being able to draw conclusion on progress at this time. Data will be available to demonstrate progress towards all objectives in the next three-year report.

Indicators were supplemented by a stakeholder monitoring survey undertaken in September 2014 and repeated in October 2016. The 2014 survey results showed a consensus response from stakeholder narrative comments that it was too early to adequately assess outcomes. Data from 2016 survey returns did not achieve the minimum number of responses necessary to draw robust conclusions. In the future, semi-structured interviews conducted within ongoing engagement will support the monitoring survey to ensure insights from key stakeholders are captured.

6.2. Outcome monitoring findings

Indicators for five objectives (3, 4, 9, 10, 11) were consistent with progress towards those objectives including:

- total generating capacity of offshore wind in the plan area rose by almost 32% contributing to delivery of the plan areas both the potential of renewable energy (objective 3) and to facilitate action on climate change adaptation (objective 9)
- the east marine plan areas reported better personal wellbeing than the average in England, indicating improved health and social wellbeing (objective 4)
- to March 2017, the MMO undertook 38 evidence projects either specifically or incidentally in support of East Marine Plans', 53% of these were produced after adoption of the East Marine Plans (objective 11, encouraging development of the marine evidence base).

Development of shipping density maps is one example of MMO progress in developing the marine evidence base to support implementation, monitoring and review of the East Marine Plans (objective 11) and the case study below illustrates how evidence developed for planning has substantial national value

CASE STUDY: PROVIDING SHIPPING DENSITY FOR DECISION-MAKING

To underpin east plan policy PS-2 the MMO piloted [mapping of shipping density and routing](#) by analysing position data collected by the Maritime Coastguard Agency and collected through vessel automatic identification systems. The MMO now produces annual datasets of shipping density with UK coverage for wider planning and decision-making, for example [Celtic Seas Partnership Future Trends scenarios](#) and the [Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study spatial plan](#).

The East marine plans have a specific objective on integration with other plans, and in the regulation and management of key activities and issues is increasing (objective 10). For example, 100% of local authority plans updated since 2014 and that border the East inshore marine plan area make reference to the East Marine Plans. Marine plans are also having wider benefits beyond policies and objectives such as improving certainty for marine stakeholders. An example of this relating to marine aggregates is provided below.

CASE STUDY: IMPROVED CERTAINTY FOR MARINE AGGREGATES

The east marine plan areas contain significant aggregate interests, accounting for 40% UK marine aggregate production. The current replacement value for the British marine aggregate dredging fleet is >£1 billion and significant investment will be required over the next five to ten years. By ensuring a robust, efficient and proportionate planning framework the East Marine Plans have provided certainty and confidence to this marine industry, facilitating the long term capital investment in the British aggregates dredging fleet necessary to deliver essential construction materials over the next two decades and beyond. Source: British Marine Aggregates Producers Association, Marine Management Organisation Marine Developments Blog.

Annex A: Summary of key indicator findings by objective

Table 1: Objectives identified by ** are objectives where indicators show positive progress toward the objective. High Level Marine Objectives listed refer to those in order of occurrence in the Marine Policy Statement

Objective	Objective intent	Summary of indicators
Objective 1 HLMOs 1-5	To promote the sustainable development of economically productive activities, taking account of spatial requirements of other activities of importance to the east marine plan areas.	<p>Data for this indicator is lagging. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) collected data until October 2016. The most recent regional Gross Value Added (GVA) data was published in December 2015.</p> <p>In the December 2015 release, 2014 data were provisional and also in part derived prior to plan adoption. Consideration of this indicator is therefore not appropriate at this time.</p>
Objective 2 HLMOs 1-5	To support activities that create employment at all skill levels, taking account of the spatial and other requirements of activities in the east marine plan areas.	<p>Data for this indicator is lagging. The MMO collected data until October 2016. The most recent dataset was regional gross disposable household income (GDHI) published in May 2016.</p> <p>In the May 2016 release, 2014 data was in part derived prior to plan adoption. Data for 2015 was provisional. Detailed consideration of this indicator is therefore not appropriate at this time.</p>
Objective 3** HLMOs 1-5	To realise sustainably the potential of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind farms, which is likely to be the most significant transformational economic activity over the next 20 years in the east marine plan areas, helping to achieve the United Kingdom's energy security and carbon reduction objectives.	<p>Total generating capacity of offshore wind (MW) rose by almost 32% based on monthly Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) data on wind farm generating capacity up to August 2016.</p> <p>Direction of travel of this indicator is consistent with objective intent.</p>

Objective 4** HLMOs 7-9,11	To reduce deprivation and support vibrant, sustainable communities through improving health and social wellbeing.	Wellbeing measures improved consistently from 2012 to March 2015 with no improvement between then and March 2016 (reporting on the financial year). Areas bordering the east marine plan areas experienced consistently better personal wellbeing than those of England generally. The effect of the East Marine Plans is unclear as the baseline showed this pattern before plans were adopted although direction of travel of this indicator is consistent with objective intent.
Objective 5 HLMOs 7,8,11	To conserve heritage assets, nationally protected landscapes and ensure that decisions consider the seascape of the local area.	The MMO are working with the planning lead in Historic England to improve accessibility and functionality of heritage assets data layers nationally. This will enhance impact monitoring, inform decision-making and underpin future marine plan policy development. The Heritage at Risk register published October 2015 contained a number of maritime culturally relevant entries, for example Martello towers. Older registers have no associated spatial data and could not be assessed. There were no wrecks at risk added in the East marine plan areas. Re-evaluation of seascape occurs less frequently than the three yearly marine plan reporting and thus is not included in this reporting cycle.
Objective 6 HLMO 6	To have a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem in the east marine plan areas.	Indicators draw upon monitoring of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive which were only confirmed in 2016. Relevant data is not available at this time. Water Framework Directive data were changed in 2013 and the first post-plan data is from 2015. It is therefore not possible to make a robust enough inference on direction of travel.
Objective 7 HLMOs 5,8-10, 13-16, 22-	To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, recover biodiversity that is in or dependent upon the east	Indicators draw upon monitoring of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive which were only confirmed in 2016. Relevant data is not available at this time Water Framework Directive data were changed in 2013 and the first post

26	marine plan areas.	plan data is from 2015. It is therefore not possible to make a robust enough inference on direction of travel.
Objective 8 HLMOs 5,8-10, 13-16,19, 22-26	To support the objectives of marine protected areas (and other designated sites around the coast that overlap, or are adjacent to the east marine plan areas), individually and as part of an ecologically coherent network.	The MMO were unable to readily access and collate the data required to assess progress towards this objective. This reflects current practice in the way designated site condition assessments are formatted and stored and the time available to the MMO to process this data for the specific purposes of marine plan monitoring. The MMO continues to work with other bodies to improve understanding in this area.
Objective 9** HLMOs 5,8-10, 13-16,19, 22-26	To facilitate action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the east marine plan areas.	Total generating capacity of offshore wind (MW) rose by almost 32%. Monthly BEIS data on wind farm generating capacity to August 2016. While other matters contribute to this objective including wave, tidal and carbon capture and storage activities, a survey used to inform monitoring provided no conclusive insights on their contribution. Direction of travel of this indicator is consistent with objective intent.
Objective 10** HLMOs 17-22	To ensure integration with other plans, and in the regulation and management of key activities and issues, in the East Marine Plans, and adjacent areas.	100% of local authority plans that border the east inshore marine plan area that were updated since 2014 refer to the East Marine Plans. As the policy intent is an improvement in process, more details are given in section 5 of this report. Two thirds of applications to the MMO, through the Marine Case Management System refer to the marine plans in a marine licence application. This proportion was variable over time and no consistent trend emerged. The most commonly cited policy was FISH1, cited in 10% of applications. MPA1, BIO1 and PS3 were all cited in 9% of applications. This identifies frequent and more widespread consideration of a subset of policies by applicants but all policies were considered by >3% of applicants.
Objective 11**	To continue to develop the marine	To March 2017, the MMO undertook 38 projects either specifically or

<p>HLMOs 23-26</p>	<p>evidence base to support implementation, monitoring and review of the East Marine Plans.</p>	<p>incidentally in support of East Marine Plans' implementation monitoring and review. 53% of these were produced after adoption of the East Marine Plans.</p> <p>Development of automatic identification system (AIS) data is a key example of how evidence initiated for planning has substantial national value.</p> <p>The MMO has developed the Marine Evidence Base within the Marine Information System to enhance transparency on evidence used and as a means for stakeholders to submit new evidence or comment of existing evidence</p>
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