

'Diverse, distinctive and determined'



Vision

The vision for the north east marine plan areas in 2041

The north east marine plan areas are distinctive for their beauty, tranquillity and sustainable productivity. Pristine sandy beaches, together with rich cultural heritage and biologically diverse seas support a growing tourism and recreation sector. The industrial heritage of the Durham coast, and areas adjacent to the Tyne, Tees and Wear estuaries and rivers continue to provide a range of cultural opportunities to explore the past, contributing towards the health and well-being of local communities. Industry continues to thrive with sustainable economic growth and a stable employment rate. The increase in job availability and security has improved the retention of talented and trained employees within the marine industry. Geologically-diverse shores of North Yorkshire support habitats for seabirds who breed on the rugged cliffs and feed in the shallow waters. A long established network of marine protected area continues to provide sanctuary for birds and sea life across the plan areas.

How will the north east marine plan areas look in 2041?

Economy

A strong marine economy has developed enabling industry to thrive and allowed the area to be a driving force in the Northern Powerhouse attracting investment which has subsequently led to required improvement in a variety of transport links to the region. The North east now has a well-established aquaculture industry, specialising in shellfish and innovative new applications are still being explored. As a result of the innovative Blyth offshore demonstrator site, the north east has become a hub for diverse offshore energy. Pioneering new technologies such as kites, tethered turbines and floating wind are now in use, allowing renewables to extend beyond the limit of the continental shelf into deeper waters. The region has made a significant contribution to achievement of the 2020 renewable energy targets. As the north east continues to grow its generating capacity, it is expected to be a large contributor to the UK's 2050 carbon reduction targets. Advancements in carbon capture utilisation and storage in particular has significantly aided the north east's commitment to reduce carbon output whilst also creating new industry opportunities in the plan area.

Social

Areas of natural beauty and heritage interest are preserved and respected, attracting tourism and stimulating small businesses. The seascape of the north east plan has been successfully preserved with historic assets such as Northumberland's coastal castles and archaeological remains being well maintained and managed, increasing pride and awareness in local culture and history. Terrestrial and marine infrastructure and access has improved, supporting, connecting and enhancing local communities combatting the feeling of isolation in smaller towns. Accessibility to the coast has improved and, combined with the continued encouragement of mindfulness and appreciation of natural beauty, has shown to be an invaluable way to increase local morale and general happiness. Employment in marine industries has promoted investment in education and up-skilling of local residents. Improvements have been made in marine recreation facilities, which has attracted tourists and benefitted local populations.

Environment

A well-managed network of marine protected areas is achieving favourable conservation status and supporting thriving populations of marine species and birds some of which have attracted eco-tourism to the area. Well-regulated eco-tourism operate in the area to give resident and tourists alike the opportunity to observe marine mammals such as minke whales which creates a balance between minimising environmental disruption and maximising economic value. The presence of invasive non-native species remains low due to appropriate bio-security measures being in place. Native species and habitats are able to continue to adapt to the effects of climate and coastal change due to well-planned and regulated marine activities that minimise cumulative impacts and thus reducing pressure upon communities and habitats. Excellent water quality supports an abundance of marine life and diverse fisheries.

Governance and using sound science

A more integrated approach to planning has been strengthened between marine and terrestrial planning systems and planning in Scotland and the bordering East Marine Plan. Improvements in digital regulation mean that consents and permits are quicker and more straightforward to obtain and enforcement is effective and efficient. Targeted evidence gathering and improved information sharing has resulted in a better understanding of our local marine area and strong positive relationships have developed between previously disconnected marine users. This increased knowledge base and holistic working practice between different marine user groups informs a successful ecosystem based management of designated sites.