



Marine Management Organisation

Legal team

The legal team advises the MMO on the performance of its regulatory functions so that they are carried out in a lawful, proportionate and transparent way. The team provides legal advice based on the best available evidence to the MMO Chief Executive, its directors and directorates with regard to every aspect of its work.

What we do:

- Advise the MMO in relation to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- Advise the marine licensing team in relation to marine licences and ongoing compliance;
- Advise the marine conservation team in relation to environmental and conservation legislation for example the management of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Conservation Zones;
- Advise on and have conduct of any public law challenges for example by way of judicial review;
- Advise on the making of harbour revision and empowerment orders;
- Advise on compliance, monitoring and enforcement of fisheries legislation and conduct prosecutions against offenders in the most serious cases;
- Advise the MMO as the UK Management Authority on European Funding;
- Advise on employment and HR matters.

Why we do it:

Correct enforcement of fisheries and environmental legislation in the seas around England results in marine activities being carried out in a sustainable way and safeguards rare, valuable and threatened habitats and marine species.

Key achievements:

£28,220 penalty for release of non-native species:

Buddhists released live non-native species of 361 American lobsters and 35 Dungeness crabs on the Sussex coast contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The legal team working closely with MMO enforcement officers, other agencies and the local fishing community to secure a successful prosecution. The size of fines in this case recognises the significant risk to the marine environment posed by offences of this nature.

We are currently also involved in supporting in other areas which are not day to day business;

- The Blue Belt Programme
- EU Exit and Day one readiness
- Drafting of statutory instruments
- Training of enforcement officers
- Collaboration with Royal Navy
- Collaboration with IFCA's
- Collaboration with Defra colleagues

