



Marine
Management
Organisation

Marine pioneer

The marine pioneer is about how to apply a natural capital approach in two test areas, North Devon and Suffolk. The natural capital approach is a method that lists resources and the risks to them so that decision makers can try to balance their uses of the environment. The MMO programme lead is working with local steering groups and project officers to demonstrate how to apply the approach and share lessons.

What we do:

- List natural resources and risks to them;
- Describe options and trade-offs between activities that require natural resources;
- Facilitate discussion and decisions about protecting and restoring natural resources.

Why we do it:

Government policy recognises that for people to survive and be healthy natural resources must be protected and restored. This requires new ways of working. The marine pioneer is a pilot for this approach.

Facts:

- Communities from the coastal partnership in Suffolk and the Biosphere designation in North Devon are working on this including government agencies, NGOs, industry and academics.
- This is a test that will inform how marine policy is delivered in the future.
- It is not just a monetary value that is important for the natural capital approach, it ranges from the value of places and nature, to the value of people and animals, and the environmental balance.
- In North Devon there is a lot of tourism and recreation as well as fishing activity.
- Suffolk is home to the largest container port in England, based at Felixstowe, as well as lots of agricultural land running right to the coast.
- The marine pioneer will also look at innovative ways of funding marine protection and restoration.
- We want to engage many more people in the importance of the health of the marine environment.
- We want to engage lots of experts in different disciplines such as social science, finance, communications, engagement and innovation.

