



Marine
Management
Organisation

Marine licensing

The marine licensing team are responsible for consenting and regulating any activity that occurs below 'mean high water springs' level that would require a marine licence. The definition mean high water springs is the average throughout a year of the heights of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours (approximately once a fortnight) when the range of the tide is greatest.

These activities can range from moorings for private jetties to nuclear power plants and offshore windfarms. When assessing applications for licences we aim to deliver timely, cost proportionate and evidence-based determinations whilst providing excellent customer service through a user-friendly system.

What we do:

- Assess licence applications and their effects on the marine environment, the economy and society;
- Consult with stakeholders and statutory national conservation bodies regarding licensing decisions;
- Agree conditions within licences to ensure that environmental risks are mitigated;
- Work with our coastal offices to enforce conditions within licences to ensure they are adhered to throughout their term.

Why we do it:

Through our work we ensure the activities we regulate are undertaken in a sustainable way, in order to create and maintain clean, healthy, safe and biologically diverse oceans and seas for this generation and for generations to come.

Facts:

- Since our inception in 2010 we have authorised over £8 billion of marine developments.
- We provide advice to the Planning Inspectorate on a number of nationally significant Infrastructure Projects i.e. Thames Tideway Tunnel, Hornsea Project 2 Offshore Windfarm, Hinkley C New Nuclear Build, Yorkshire Potash Project etc.
- 10% of all primary aggregates sales in England and Wales come from marine-dredged sand and gravel.
- The economic value of the UK telecommunications subsea cables industry to the digital economy is £62.8 billion per annum.
- The Strategic Licensing Team held a meeting with the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA) in London in June 2017. The UKSA is proposing to develop commercial opportunities for the launch of satellites and to progress sub-orbital space tourism. Most of the proposed launch sites are located on the coast of Scotland, but the MMO was requested to provide advice in relation to potential impacts to the marine environment from deposits at sea, including international obligations (e.g. Ospar, London Convention).

