



Marine Planning Iteration 3 Engagement Summary

Thank you for engaging in Marine Planning

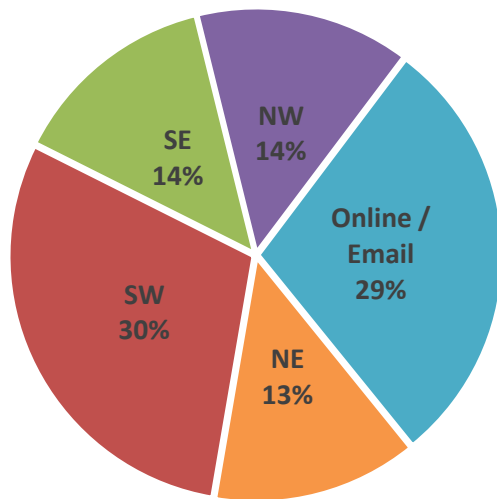
Thank you for participating in the Iteration 3 engagement, which ran from 21 January until 29 March 2019. Nine workshops were held over the North West, North East, South East and South West marine plan areas (with the support of local coastal partnerships), supported by online engagement.

Your input is being analysed and will contribute towards the draft Marine Plans for which public consultation will open in late 2019. Marine Officers continue to hold regular meetings in their marine plan area on request.

Engagement Participants

Newcastle	39
Redcar	28
Newquay	48
Totnes	47
Taunton	52
Chelmsford	30
Chatham	38
Carlisle	38
New Brighton	32
Online / Email	143
Total	495

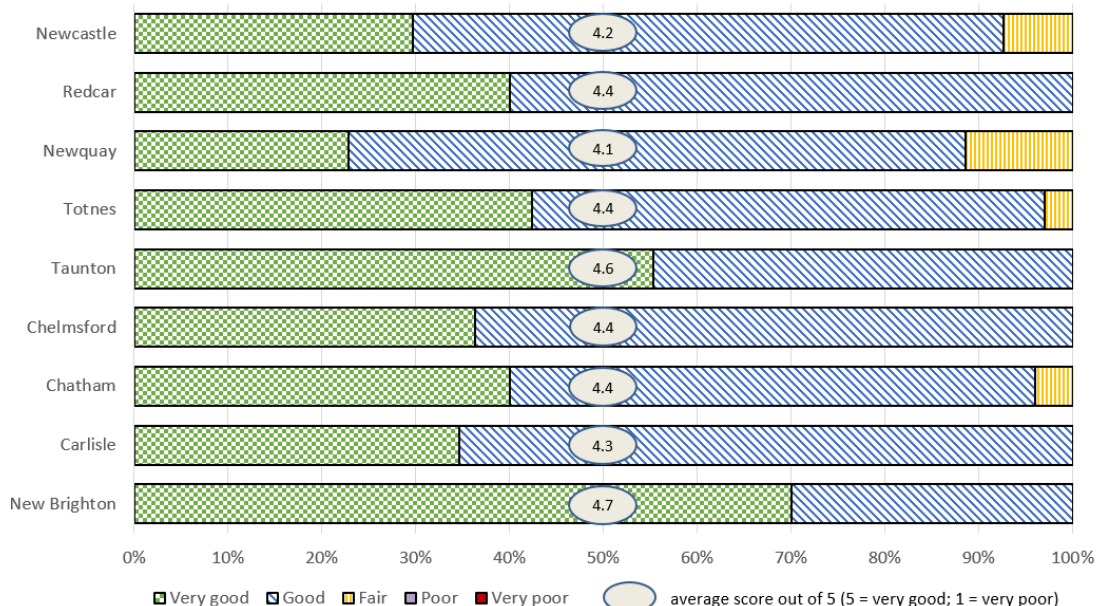
Participants by marine plan area or online



Feedback from our events

The majority of stakeholders rated the workshops as very good to good (average of 4.1-4.7 out of 5) and valued being involved in the marine planning process.

Stakeholder workshop feedback: Iteration 3
'Overall how would you rate the event?'



Engagement on Policy Wording

In [Iteration 1](#) stakeholders commented on the [issues](#) identified in 2016. They then picked their policy options during [Iteration 2](#) in Spring 2018. These formed the basis for the preferred policies that, together with supporting text, were developed in Summer 2018 and were the subject of this Iteration 3 engagement.

Stakeholders were asked three questions regarding the content of each individual policy:

1. Do you support this policy?

This focussed on the policy response text.

2. Do you support the implementation of the policy?

This question focussed on how the policy would be applied and who it would be relevant to.

(Both of the above questions could be answered with either “yes”, “yes, subject to changes” or “no”.)

3. Any other comments?

Any other commentary about the policy, template or wider marine planning here that does not fit within the first two questions.

At workshops, facilitated discussions were held with groups with the aim of reaching group consensus. Discussions centred on those policies on which we were particularly keen to hear stakeholder views such as new or rewritten policies, or those responding to new or emerging issues (e.g. net gain, marine litter etc.) A total of 347 individual policy discussions were held with 352 attendees across nine workshops.

Online Engagement

The online engagement ran from 21 January until 29 March 2019 and followed the same question format as the workshops. Stakeholders, however, now had the opportunity to comment on all policies.

We received the best response ever to an online iteration engagement (143 individual responses), with:

- 116 online survey respondents – approximately 2500 individual policy comments
- 27 e-mail responses – approximately 490 individual policy comments

Feedback indicates that generally stakeholders found the online engagement better than that for Iteration 2 (which did not record your details or provide you evidence of your submission). Stakeholders appreciated being able to be selective over what they responded to, but found repeating responses between different marine plans somewhat inconvenient.

Reflections from the Chair

The ‘Reflections from the Chair’ which follow in the marine plan area summaries are a sample of soundbites/trends from the stakeholders at the workshops, gathered by the Chairs at each workshop and are not to be considered as views of the MMO.

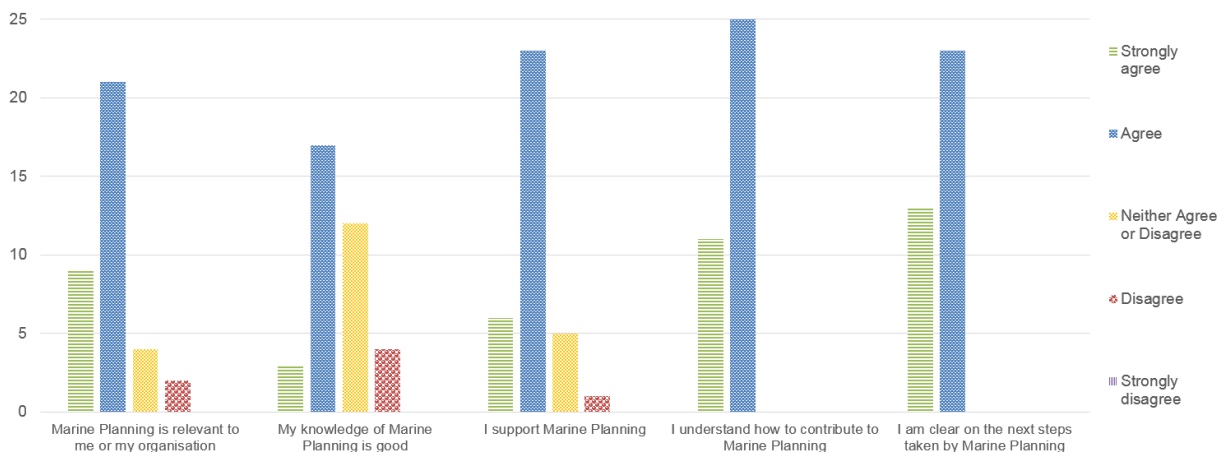


North East Marine Plan Engagement

Iteration 3 had a flying start, with 67 stakeholders attending workshops in Newcastle and Redcar. We met stakeholders from local planning authorities, Natural England, Historic England, Ports of Tyne & Blyth, PD Ports and the Royal Yachting Association, to name a few. The Newcastle event was well received, with sustained energy levels and engagement. Redcar had great attendance with positive delegates keen to be involved. Thanks to Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership and Durham Heritage Coast Partnership for their support chairing and facilitating.



North East - Numbers of stakeholders that agree with the following statements



Some reflections from the Chair

- Stakeholders want more accessible, visual plans and could implement plans by raising awareness, supported by MMO training and events
- Policies generally received consensus, extra clarifications, rewording and guidance needed, as well as more consistency across plans and policies
- Challenge to how we incorporate future strategies and developments, (e.g. net gain, natural capital)
- Much interest in the 'you said, we did' narrative. We will consider this further, informed by wider feedback
- Recurring themes included the need for consistency, guidance and accessibility.



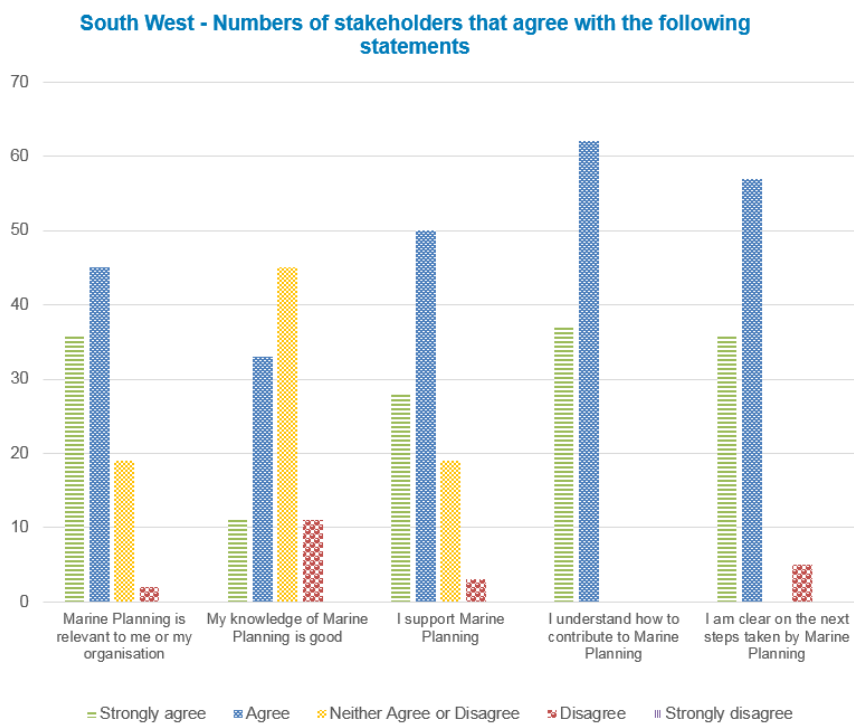
Your North East marine planner

[Clare McCarty](#), 0208 720 1736

South West Marine Plan engagement

147 stakeholders turned out for workshops in Newquay, Totnes and Taunton.

A mix of stakeholders attended, with many returning faces including local planning authorities, conservation groups, port and harbour representatives and local residents, among others. Discussions were lively, with stakeholders commenting that they could see the improvements and progress we have made at each iteration. Thanks to Devon Maritime Forum and Severn Estuary Partnership for their support chairing and facilitating.



Some reflections from the Chair

- Plenty of good suggestions made about ways to structure plans to keep them clear and the need to produce guidance to translate marine plans to different audiences
- Stakeholders in Newquay appreciated the opportunity to network, with several highlighting this as the added value of our workshops
- In a grandiose setting in Totnes, feedback from delegates was on the whole very good, with a few minor issues linked to licensing issues. We were supported here by colleagues representing MMO Marine Licensing
- Discussions in Taunton focused on the boundary with Wales, the land-sea boundary and international boundaries. We were readily supported in these by attendees from Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and the Severn Estuary Partnership
- We have had positive feedback from delegates about our organised and comprehensive engagement. One person said 'it's the best engagement I have ever seen across any government body or department'

Your South West marine planners

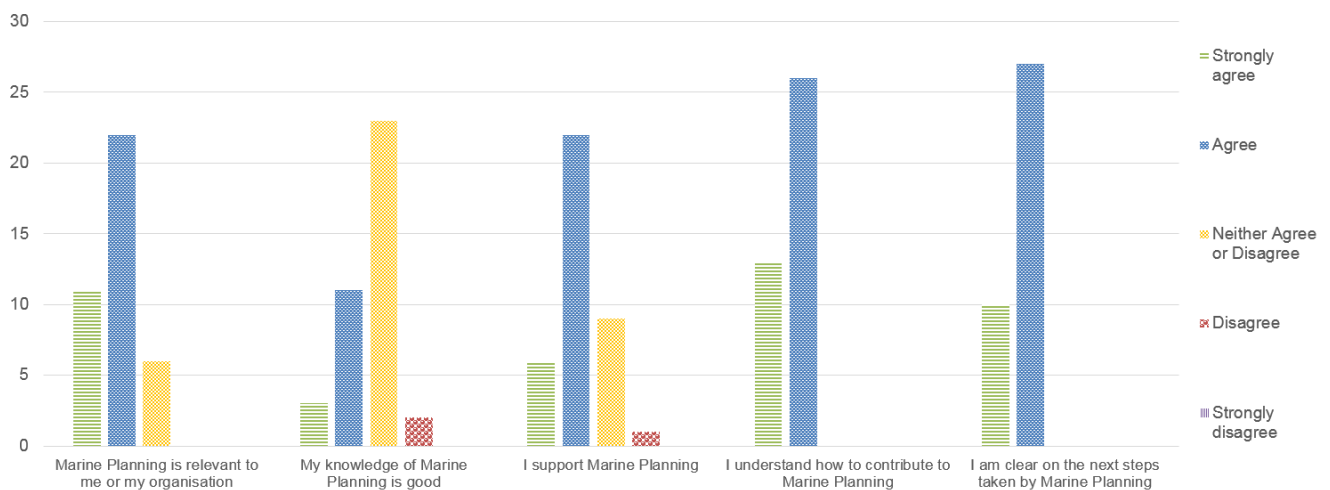
[Amy Willcocks](#), 0207 895 5620 or [Alex Curd](#), 0208 565 4835

South East Marine Plan engagement

68 stakeholders attended workshops in Chelmsford and Chatham. Both workshops were again well received with lots of input and feedback. We met delegates from Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, The Wildlife Trust, The Crown Estate, Natural England, recreational groups and various local planning authorities, among others. As with most workshops, our colleagues from MMO Marine Licensing have been on-hand to answer any case-specific queries from attendees. We are also grateful to the Thames Estuary Partnership at both workshops for their support chairing and facilitating.



South East - Numbers of stakeholders that agree with the following statements



Some reflections from the Chair

- People mainly rated the event 'Good' and agreed that they understood how they can contribute to the marine plans
- There is a clear need for consistency across the plan policies. There were queries on the a/b/c/d mitigation hierarchy, showing that we need to explain the options process and compatibility testing in more detail
- There were a number of comments from delegates stating how they really appreciated that they were involved in the process and that they learned a lot from the day

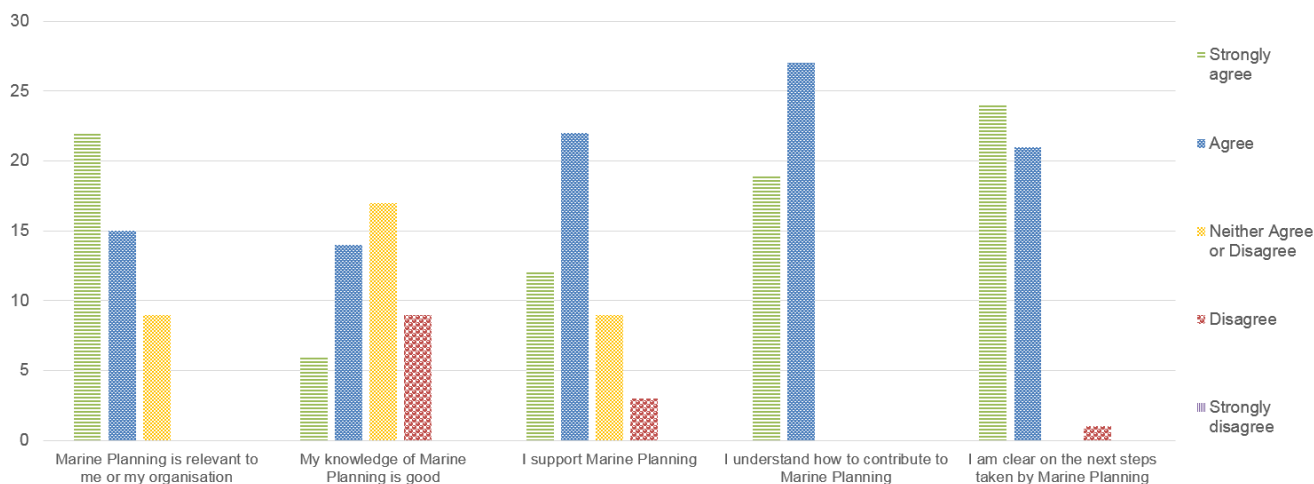
Your South East marine planner

Tom Pavitt, 0208 225 8857

North West Marine Plan engagement

70 stakeholders attended workshops in Carlisle and New Brighton. There was a mix of new faces and old hands, with folk who have been with us since the Iteration 1 workshops being very supportive and encouraging of our work. There was good representation across the various stakeholder groups, such as Marine Scotland, North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Peel Ports, RSPB, JNCC, United Utilities, Scottish Power and various county and city councils. Also in attendance in Carlisle were two new MMO Non-Executive Board members – David Lyall and Bill Roberts, both of which were new to marine planning. Thanks to the Solway Firth Partnership and the North West Coastal Forum for their support chairing and facilitating.

North West - Numbers of stakeholders that agree with the following statements



Some reflections from the Chair

- Representatives from the Welsh Government were in attendance and were questioning why there wasn't a similar cross-estuary policy for the Dee and Solway as we have in the Severn
- Policies on tourism and recreation sometimes produced polarising opinions between stakeholders, but plenty of lively discussion
- Stakeholders have been able to see the progress the North West Marine Plan is making



Your North West marine planner

[Joe Smithyman](#), 0208 0266 112



Engagement on Marine Plan Implementation

It is a legal requirement that decisions affecting England's marine area must take the appropriate marine planning document into account under Section 58 of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#). Effective marine planning requires the development of marine plans that are usable.

During Iteration 2, stakeholders expressed a desire to see marine plan implementation start as soon as possible. It is important that the usability of policies, and the ability to effectively monitor them, are taken into account in their development. Decisions that take account of marine plans have a reduced risk of legal challenge, are informed by the best available evidence, are considered against regional and national context, ensure sustainable management and save time and money for applicants.

In order to successfully implement marine plans we need to know how our stakeholders intend to use them effectively. At each workshop we asked attendees to consider two questions:

1. What would help you understand how to use the marine plan?

This question sought ideas from stakeholders on what they needed from the MMO to assist them to incorporate marine planning into their processes.

2. What actions do you need to take in order to use the plan effectively?

This aimed to help delegates focus on what actions they need to take to prepare to meet their statutory obligations under the adopted plans. It also helped stakeholders think about the practicalities of implementing plans, prior to reviewing individual policies.

Data collected at all the Iteration 3 workshops is currently being analysed and will help inform the method of engagement on plan implementation at the Consultation Draft plan stage.

Initial analysis of comments has indicated that stakeholders would support more meetings with the MMO in helping them implement plans, although it was also recognised that stakeholders need to amend their own internal procedures to achieve this. There was also preference for marine plan documents being more accessible online with guidance notes provided, and documents tailored for certain stakeholder groups.

Please note that these early results may change once analysis of all responses is completed.



Overall views

At all events the following points were consistently made:

- It can sometimes be difficult commenting on policies when they are viewed in isolation
- We need to ensure consistency where appropriate, both across policies and between marine areas or plans
- Policies will be easier to analyse once they are supported by spatial datasets and maps
- The methods of engagement and the policies themselves have improved as the stages of engagement have progressed
- Stakeholders learned a lot at the workshops and appreciated engaging directly and that the MMO takes their views on board. The chance to network at the workshops is also valued

Digital Marine Plans

We are continuing to develop a new Marine Planning Digital Service to replace the Marine Information System. Following completion of Discovery in February 2018 the Alpha Phase ran from September to November 2018. Alpha continued user research, using prototypes to develop and refine a non-functional prototype. The Beta phase will shortly begin and will build upon user research to develop a new service. We will be looking to undertake user testing and will be looking for volunteers.

What's next...

We are analysing all policy comments received, both online and in the workshops. The intention is to complete draft plans for the four areas by the autumn of this year. We will continue to keep you updated on this progress. Watch this space while we also continue to:

- Implement the East and South marine plans and develop our monitoring approach
- Finalise our evidence and research projects, producing maps and spatial data to support policies engaged on during iteration 3

Indicative Marine Planning Timeline

Policy Amendment	Apr – Aug 19
Internal Plan Drafting	Aug – Sep 19
Draft Plans Consultation preparation	Sept – Oct 19
Draft Plan Consultation Period	Nov 19 – Feb 20
Sustainability Appraisal	Ongoing
Habitats Regulation Assessment	Ongoing
Marine Plan area engagement	Ongoing through local Marine Planner

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