



Deeper northern and shallower southern waters of the North Sea are separated at the Flamborough Front, bringing nutrients and supporting abundant wildlife (Bempton Cliffs). The area also has concentrations of wildlife at Lindisfarne (40,000 wintering waterbirds) and the Farne Islands (54,000 breeding seabirds and a large breeding colony of grey seals).

The areas include six Marine Conservation Zones, three Special Protection Areas and two Special Areas of Conservation. Water quality is generally good outside of a few localities. The Yorkshire Dinosaur Coast has exposed Jurassic fossil rich geology, while oil rich geology is located in the extreme offshore.



## Opportunities

- O1. encourage and support wider roll-out of successful bird bycatch reduction measures by netsmen in Filey Bay [1]
- O2. expand activities that support conurbations, such as Teesside, taking account of environmental limits to reduce cumulative effects [2]
- O3. improve resource planning for dredge disposal sites to mitigate deposit contamination (Coquet to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone and Port of Blyth) and facilitate beneficial use of dredge material [3]
- O4. increases in sea temperatures due to climate change could support the redistribution of species (red mullet) [4]
- O5. protect important habitats and flexibility of marine protected areas boundaries to adapt with changes to features

## Challenges

- C1. seals – conflict with commercial fishing and grey seals [1] and threat of entanglement from lost angling gear impacting on seal populations [5]
- C2. acid mine water discharge impact on water quality (Saltburn Gill and Skinningrove from historic coal mining) [6]
- C3. impact of disturbance by recreational users, offshore windfarms, bait digging and fisheries bycatch on seabird populations [7]
- C4. decline of saltmarsh habitat around the Tees Valley due to lack of sediment supply, suitable sites for sediment accumulation and historical land reclaim [8]
- C5. impact of invasive species including cord grass on mudflats resulting in habitat loss for waders and fowl (Lindisfarne), and Chinese mitten crab borrows eroding riverbanks (Tyne) [6]



## Evidence sources

- [1] Northumberland IFCA Strategic Environmental Assessment
- [2] MMO Activities data
- [3] Marine Policy Statement
- [4] MMO1077
- [5] St Marys Seal Watch Volunteers, St Mary's Island Northumberland

- [6] Incidental issues raised in SPP event
- [7] RSPB personal communication with marine planning team
- [8] Strategic scoping review