



Guidance for licensing case officers on tourism, socio-economic, and seascape and landscape assessment to support implementation of marine planning

Aim

The aim of this project was to produce desk notes for use by marine licensing case officers that will support their assessment of marine licence applications against specific policies set out in the East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans on tourism, socio-economics, and seascape and landscape. Further details relating to assessment of these themes are expanded on in the accompanying report.

Introduction and methodology

Through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA), the UK Government introduced a number of measures to deliver its vision of "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas". These measures included providing for the introduction of a marine planning system. Marine plans, together with the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), underpin this new planning system for English seas.

As directed by Section 58 of the MCAA, the MMO marine licensing team must make marine licence determinations in accordance with the MPS or, where in place, marine plans. The first marine plans, for the East Inshore and Offshore Areas were published in April 2014.

Marine licensing case officers need to assess marine licence applications against marine plan policies. This guidance will support decision-making by case officers on policies in the following areas:

- Socio-economic assessment
- Assessment of impacts of and on tourism (positive and negative)
- Assessment of impacts on landscape and seascape character

The specific East plan policies these relate to are; SOC1, SOC3, TR3, EC1 and EC2.

Results

Three desk notes have been prepared, reviewed and put into use by licensing case officers. These desk notes are brief reminders of what might be submitted in an assessment for tourism, seascape or socio-economics should one be required to be in accordance with the East marine plans. There are no new methods included but simply a collation of current information. Supplementary information has been produced in the guidance report accompanying the desk notes to detail where the information in the desk notes comes from.

The report:

- Presents background information on the policy context, including relevant legislation and guidance.
- Summarises the findings of a literature review on socio-economic analysis and its applicability to marine licensing.
- Summarises the findings of a literature review on tourism and recreation impact assessment and its applicability to marine licensing.
- Summarises the findings of a literature review on landscape and seascape character assessment and its applicability to marine licensing.

A summary of each document reviewed for the purposes of this study is presented in an annotated bibliography.

Conclusions and recommendations

This report does not provide conclusions and recommendations.

Further information

Please direct any correspondence to the Evidence Team by emailing evidence@marinemanagement.org.uk