



The south east is recognised as an economic hub for England, with high rates of employment and above average growth. The marine area has historically aided this growth across two local enterprise partnership areas, and will continue to be of great importance to the region.

The south east depends on an extensive transport network through road, rail and sea. The Ports of Dover, Felixstowe, Medway and Thames Gateway embody economic growth today, but smaller industries still depend on marine connectivity. Fishing and recreation have shaped the Cinque Ports and Oyster Towns throughout the greater Thames estuary, and have recently been enhanced through diversification into green energy and enterprise.



Opportunities

- O1. continued development of new and existing aquaculture sites in Kent and Essex [1,2]
- O2. development of ports in response to UK and international needs as identified in port and harbour masterplans, such as maintaining Felixstowe's position as the UK's largest container port [1, 3]
- O3. diversification of tourism activities to provide year round employment potential in areas dependent on the tourism industry, such as Suffolk and Kent [1, 3]
- O4. encourage the provision of training for the local workforce to respond to growth areas and maintain local knowledge of specific maritime sectors through demand-led training and local employer-led employment and skills boards such as in Greater Essex, Kent and Medway [3]

Challenges

- C1. vessel traffic in the Port of Harwich requires applications for aggregate extraction to place conditions on their licences, restricting activity [1]
- C2. balancing the need to expand or maintain port and harbour activity with those of the environment (Port of Dover, Goodwin) [1]
- C3. dredging regimes around ports, such as Dover, Harwich and London, need to be sustained to maintain access and safe navigation to ports to ensure continued competitiveness [2]
- C4. lack of diversity in available employment of coastal towns such as Margate, Thanet and Dover [1, 3]



Evidence sources

- [1] MMO Coastal Offices expertise
- [2] MIS data layers

- [3] MMO1119 Economic baseline for marine plans (in press)
- [4] Sustainability appraisal report cards