

# Marine Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Database - User Guidance

## Introduction

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is currently preparing the remaining<sup>1</sup> English marine plans (North East Inshore and Offshore, North West Inshore and Offshore, South West Inshore and Offshore and South East Inshore marine plans). These plans will be subject to an integrated Sustainability Appraisal (hereafter referred to as SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

As part of the scoping for the SA a sustainability framework has been developed and a range of information collected to underpin the assessment as part of a scoping exercise. Such information has been collated in to a single, searchable Excel spreadsheet which will allow decision makers and consultees to review and understand on what basis the SA has been developed.

This document provides guidance for using the database which includes information of the following:

- Sheet A (Policy, Baseline, Issue, Gaps):
  - Policy / Targets: Information is included relating to the policy and legislative framework
  - Baseline: Statements on the current status of the environment are presented
  - Issues: Identification of issues which are affecting the relevant marine plan areas or which cross-cut across all marine plan areas are presented.
  - Data Gaps: Gaps in our knowledge which may preclude robust analysis or introduce uncertainty are identified.
- Sheet B: Data Source
  - Data Sources: A full list of data/information reviewed in compiling the SA scoping report is provided.

It should be noted that all data sources will be subject to the MMO's quality assurance (QA) protocols and the final version of the database will include relevant QA information.

## Filtering and Searching

All columns in both sheets have been displayed with a filter, which will allow a quick search for data/sources based on drop down lists. Filtering can be initiated by clicking the small arrows located alongside each column title (bottom right) and selecting the information required in each column. Multiple searches may be undertaken e.g. to search for 'issues' relating to 'cultural heritage' in the 'south west inshore plan area'.

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<sup>1</sup> To date, four marine plans have been produced under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. England's East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans were published in April 2014. The South Marine Plan (inshore and offshore) is shortly to be published in draft form for consultation.

**Sheet A: Policy, Baseline, Issue, Gaps**

This sheet contains relevant information to the SA for each marine plan area and contains the following cells/information.

Column(s)	Information	Commentary
A	Topic Identifier	Unique alpha-numeric identifiers are provided for each row or the spreadsheet. These unique identifiers are used within the SA report so that links can be made between the report and underlying data.
B	SA Topic Area	Defines which of the main SA framework areas the row relates to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air = Air quality;</li> <li>• Biodiversity = Biodiversity, Habitats, Flora and Fauna;</li> <li>• Climate;</li> <li>• Communities = Communities, health and well being;</li> <li>• Cultural = Cultural heritage;</li> <li>• Economy;</li> <li>• Geology = Geology, substrates and coastal processes;</li> <li>• Landscape = Landscape and seascape; and</li> <li>• Water.</li> </ul>
C	Sub-Topic	Each of the main SA topics is broken down further in to sub-topics.
D	Description of Policy/Target, Baseline, Issue or Gap	A headline description of the information is presented
E	Policy/Target, Baseline, Issue or Gap	Each piece of information has been classified as either: a policy/target; baseline; issue; or data gap.
F – M	Marine Plan Area	These columns represent all of the individual marine plan areas covered by the SA scoping report. A 'yes' is recorded if the data relates to this plan area. It should be noted that for information which relates to all marine plan areas a 'yes' is recorded in column F as well as individually to allow for easier searching for cross-cutting information.
N	Data Identifier	This lists the data source (i.e. evidence) for each piece of information and this relates directly to the list data sources on Sheet B.
O	Comments	Further information is provided.

**Sheet B: Data Source**

This sheet presents the evidence source for each of the pieces of information presented in Sheet A. One row corresponds to one piece of data.

This sheet contains the following cells/information.

Column(s)	Information	Commentary
A	Data Identifier	Name of the data source.
B	MMO Registry?	Is the data source currently held within the MMO's assured master data register?
C	Format	Identifies what format the information is held in: PDF - Statutory Report, PDF - Non Statutory Report, PDF - Academic Paper, PDF – Other, Raster (any bathymetry file, image, satellite data etc), Vector (any spatial point file, polygon, shapefile, dgn, dxf etc.),Text, or Excel table.
D	Source	A direct link to the original source is provided if it is available on the web.
E	Abstract	A summary of the information is occasionally provided.
F	Date Captured	The date the information was reviewed as part of the SA scoping.