



The north west plan areas overlap with 19 local authorities areas (including four unitary authorities), two areas of outstanding natural beauty and the Lake District National Park. It also has the greatest number of international and devolved authority stakeholders, including Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. In addition there are influences from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and the north west marine plan areas are also in Oslo Paris Convention Region III.

There are well established coastal groups with substantial stakeholder reach and information. These include the North West Coastal Forum, and the Solway Firth and Morecambe Bay Partnerships. There are four local enterprise partnerships overlapping within the plan areas. The North West Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority regulates and manages fisheries in the north west marine plan areas within 6 nautical miles.



Opportunities

- O1. strength and competitiveness of the north west area manufacturing and ports sectors offer significant opportunities for growth (such as offshore wind, Port of Heysham, Liverpool port development) [1]
- O2. manufacturing contributes £2.1bn, 25% of Cumbria's gross value added, yet the sector only employs 15% of the workforce. Marine planning can support local authorities to stimulate manufacturing and use of ports for marine activity to contribute to the promotion of local employment skills. [1] [2]
- O3. opportunity to create common evidence base for cumulative effects across administrations (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the north west plan area) [3]

Challenges

- C1. requirement for the Welsh Government and MMO to co-ordinate licensed aggregate extraction sites that cross over between the Welsh, south west and north west plan areas[3]
- C2. harmonisation between marine planning interactions with Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Isle of Man, for social, economic and environment sectors [3]
- C3. competition for space in an already densely used area requiring an understanding of how activities and developments can co-exist and what land-based infrastructure can be provided to facilitate them (east to west interconnector, Walney, Barrow and Burbo bank offshore windfarms) [3]



Evidence sources

- [1] Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
- [2] Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership
- [3] Marine Management Organisation expert opinion