



The south east marine area overlaps with 38 local authorities (including three unitary authorities). There are two main county authorities, Essex and Kent, with Suffolk County next to the north of the plan area. Additionally the Greater London Authority falls within this plan area. There are three areas of outstanding natural beauty. France and the east and south marine plan areas border the south east marine plan area.

The area includes one local enterprise partnership, 20 large or medium sized ports and one inshore fisheries and conservation authority. In relation to Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, the area sits within the Greater North Sea region (II). Non-statutory partnerships have key links into local communities including the Thames Estuary Partnership, Thanet Coast Project, Colne Estuary Partnership and Essex Estuaries Partnership.



Opportunities

- O1. reduce congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and cost in logistic chains by moving transport from roads to river in London [1]. Would need wharves throughout the capital to maximise benefits [2]
- O2. maximise benefits of marine planning through continuity between the South East, South and East Marine Plans [3]
- O3. maintain and enhance potential of wild shellfish and associated traditions. A number of initiatives are already ongoing and marine plans should seek to coordinate and support these [2,3]

Challenges

- C1. identify where marine plans can add most value to existing regulatory frameworks for urban London and the marine and intertidal space [3]
- C2. balance need for affordable housing with the need to retain and grow wharf provision throughout London to enable transport to move from roads to river [2]
- C3. understand and safeguard settings of heritage assets within, and adjacent to, the marine area. The south east has a high density of heritage assets in the marine plan area which are often the focus of specific local plan policies [2].
- C4. impact of development on active coastal management, particularly on coastal systems, seabeds, coastlines and related processes and dependent habitats [2]
- C5. future development increasing pressure on existing, extensive development at the coast. Where development might impact protected sites, designating compensatory habitat required may be a challenge given limited space [2]



Evidence sources

- [1] Draft Thames vision goals and priority actions
- [2] Sustainability appraisal report cards
- [3] Marine Management Organisation marine planning staff knowledge