



1. Requirement overview:

Requirements	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) requires information to help refine its approach to monitoring and evaluating marine plans
Requirement detail	<p>The MMO has identified the need to improve how marine plans are monitored and evaluated. It includes assessing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation and monitoring of the South Marine Plan • review and reporting requirements of the East Marine Plan • development and implementation of the North East, North West, South East and South West Marine Plans <p>As part of this work the MMO also require a new or improved framework for monitoring and evaluating all marine plans. The framework should build on the outputs of MMO 1087.</p> <p>A draft version of the framework is required by autumn 2017 for consultation, with a final framework completed by end 2017. The outputs/guidance will be delivered by end 2018.</p>
MMO use	<p>Marine Planning</p> <p>Continued improvement to the delivery of legal obligations related to monitoring and evaluation of marine plans.</p> <p>It will also inform preparation of iteration 3 of plans for the North East, North West, South East and South West Marine Plans.</p>
External interest	Natural England, Cefas, JNCC, Environment Agency, Devolved Administrations
Delivery target	2018, Q4

2. Aims and objectives

Aim:

To improve the evaluation and monitoring of English marine plans.

Objectives:

- assess the approach taken to evaluate the South Marine Plan, providing both an independent view of the work undertaken and its efficacy, as well as suggesting improvements to both process and output/outcome evaluation
- develop an improved monitoring and evaluation framework to be used as part of the development of marine plans for the north east, north west, south east and south west marine plan areas, including:
 - an updated view on expected benefits
 - improved evaluation approach
 - contribution of qualitative information
- illustrate benefits of marine planning to different stakeholder interests, in relation to the process and the longer term effect of the plans, including an interim report published summer 2017
- test the effectiveness of the framework through appropriate evidence gathering, alongside monitoring being undertaken by the MMO resulting in a set of comments in a suitable format.

3. Existing evidence

MMO	MMO 1087 is the main work the MMO has previously done on assessing its approach to monitoring and evaluation. This work looks at the approach to monitoring taken in the East Marine Plans Implementation and Monitoring Plan and suggests ways that it can be improved.
Academic	Kelly et al review and evaluate marine planning in the Shetland Isles, giving a useful approach to evaluation of marine planning in the UK, whilst further afield Lin et al provide useful context on evaluation of national governance models for marine management. In a wider evaluation theory context, Magro and Wilson look at evaluation of complex policy.
Other	The Green Book sets out how publicly funded bodies should prepare and analyse proposed policies and programmes to get best public value. It also sets out how monitoring and evaluation should be carried out within publicly funded bodies to find out how well they achieved their original aims. The Marine and Coastal Access Act , particularly section 61, sets out the legal background for monitoring of marine plans in the UK. At an international level, the UNESCO guide to evaluating marine spatial planning provides useful information.

4. Current activity

Current monitoring approaches, including the use of logic models, have been found to be a partial method for evaluating the full impact of marine plans at the current time.

The MMO is therefore developing its approach to evaluation and monitoring of the South marine plans and is looking to start on its approach to evaluation and monitoring of the remaining marine plan areas. As part of this it is looking at involvement in the [CECAN](#) project, an academic project to develop evaluation of complex policy areas, such as marine planning.

The MMO is also looking at potential sources of funding for further work under this evidence requirement.

5. Associated evidence requirements

There are no related evidence requirements.

6. Potential delivery route

The MMO will look to partner with organisations of relevance to widen the potential impact of any work undertaken in this area. Similarly, where appropriate, the MMO will explore opportunities to influence the research of others to gather evidence that can be applied within a marine management context. As work progresses it is implicit that knowledge exchange is required throughout the duration of this requirement and not limited to when delivery is complete.

Partnering

Delivery window: Q1, 2017 – Q1, 2018

There is currently interest across the Defra group in understanding evaluation and monitoring further. Partnering with interested organisations has the opportunity to apply generic learning and use a MMO case study as a way of understanding how approaches to evaluation and monitoring can be applied across policy delivery

Commissioning

Delivery window: Q1, 2017 to Q2, 2018

Where the MMO does not have available internal resource, commissioning should be considered the most direct opportunity to deliver evidence on this topic, funding permitting.

Influencing the research of others

Delivery window: Q2, 2016 to Q1, 2019

Where appropriate there is the opportunity for the MMO to support/influence the research of others in this field, such as through the [CECAN](#) project. Scientific research in this field has the opportunity to have high impact and be directly applied within marine management decision making. Opportunities and discussions are welcomed in this area.

Knowledge exchange

Delivery window: Q2, 2016 – Q1, 2020

Upon completion of any work or projects relating to this evidence request a period of knowledge exchange will be required to communicate the information as well as allowing assimilation into the MMOs ongoing marine management processes.

See table 1 for timescales.

7. Contact

For more information or to add further research to the existing evidence list please email evidence@marinemanagement.org.uk

Table 1: Delivery timescales 2016 to 2020

Delivery Route	2016			2017				2018				2019				2020			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Partnering																			
Commissioning																			
Influencing the research of others																			
Knowledge exchange																			